Workers covered under ESI Scheme in Gujarat

578. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers covered by the Employees State Insurance Scheme in Gujarat;

' (b) the number of hospitals and dispensaries of ESI functioning in Gujarat and also the number of workers being benefited thereby;

(c) the number of hospitals and dispensaries proposed to be set up during the remaining period of the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the number of dispensaries which arc to be modernised and upgraded during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) There are 12 ESI Hospitals and 124 ESI Dispensaries in Gujarat covering 5,72,600 insured persons and their family members.

(c) the ESI Hospitals and Dispensaries are set up in consultation with State Governments on need basis and, therefore, not linked to Five Year Plan. During 2000-2001 the ESIC has sanctioned establishment of two dispensaries *i.e.* one each at Gandhinagar and Anand VallabhVidyanagar. At present there is no proposal to set up any new hospital/dispensary in Gujarat.

(d) Under the Action Plan, the ESIC had decided to provide necessary basic equipments to all ESI Dispensaries. Acordingly, the Corporation has sanctioned equipments worth Rs. 17,22,000/- so as to upgrade/modernise dispensaries in Gujarat during the last two years.

Abolition of Child Labour

†579. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have fixed a target to abolish child labour in the country by the year 2010;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that a programme to impart professional training to child labourers for their rehabilitation is being run by Government since long and from 1980 to 2000 a sum of Rs. 567 crore were allocated under this

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

head but only Rs. 32 crore could be utilized therefrom;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(d) whether it is not an indicator of Government's indifferent attitude towards the child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted for withdrawal of children from work and their rehabilitation. In the National Conference on Child Labour held in New Delhi in January 2001, it was resolved that all efforts be made for complete, elimination of child labour. However, it would be the Government's endeavour to eliminate child labour in hazardous occupations by 2005.

(b) to (d) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes, for rehabilitation of Children withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour projects (NCLP) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. The major activity under the NCLP is running special schools / centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc. Under the Scheme of grant-in-aid, funds are released to Voluntary Organisations, on the recommendation of the concerned State Government, for taking up action oriented projects for the benefit of children withdrawn from work.

The Budget provision for the Eighth Five Year Plan period (1992—97) was initially Rs. 15 crore and later increased to Rs. 100.76 crore. Expenditure during the period was Rs. 74.71 crore. The Budget Allocation for the Ninth Five Year Plan period is Rs. 249.60 crore. As against this, an expenditure of Rs. 136 crores has already been incurred. While the level of utilisation of funds was low in the initial years of the Ninth Plan, it has improved in the subsequent years. Seeing the levels of utilisation of the NCLPs, increased allocation for the schemes for the financial year 2000-2001 have been made whereby an amount of Rs. 67 crore has been allocated for the child labour projects for this financial year.